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PERSONAL FROM: MAJOR GENERAL ALMOND

PERSONAL FOR : GENERAL MACARTHUR

NUMBER : X 11793, 31 October 1950

In company with G-2 and G-3 representatives of my staff, I visited I ROK Corps Headquarters in Hamhung at 1000 today and interrogated 16 CCF POWS captured at 1600 yesterday, 29 October vicinity Sudong CV 5747. This visit was made in order to gain first hand knowledge of the reported presence of CCF in North Korean battle areas.

Outwardly the prisoners appeared healthy, well-clothed, with new winter uniforms and shoes, and as a result of a hasty test of alertness and military training, i.e., the execution of a few simple commands, the prisoners appeared reasonably well trained. Average age was 28 - 30 years and their military service averaged approximately 2 years. The prisoners spoke the Peking dialect and the North Manchurian dialect of the Chinese language. Detailed interrogation was being conducted by I ROK Corps interrogators reinforced by a small party of the X Corps prisoner Interrogation Detachment.

A summary of the info obtained from these prisoners follows:

"The men were members of the mortar company of the 370 Regiment, 124 CCF Division, 42 CCF Corps (?). None admitted knowing names of their battalion, regimental, or division commanders but all knew their over all commander Lin Piao, the Manchurian CCF Commander. The strength of the mortar company was 180 men, 52 horses, and 4 US 81 MM mortars. The mortar company consisted of 2 mortar platoons each of which contained 32 men, 6 horses, and was equipped with 2 mortars. The third platoon of the mortar company was an ammunition platoon consisting of 90 men and 40 horses. The balance of the company strength consisted of Company Headquarters, cooks, and signal men. Within the ammunition platoon each horse carried 4 boxes of ammunition at 2 rounds per box. Within the mortar platoons the 6 horses carried split loads comprising the 2 mortars and a few rounds of ammunition.

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"In addition to the previously described mortar company, the 370 regiment included 3 infantry battalions at 680 men each and a regimental gun company. The latter was equipped with 4 small caliber Jap regimental guns, carried on pack horses at 3 horses per gun, and totaled 167 men.

"The prisoners belonged to the 370 regiment, of the Chinese Nationalist Army from 1947 to April 1949 located near Tientsin. In about April 1949 the entire regiment, with its US and Jap equipment, was integrated into the Chinese Communist Army. In February 1950 the 370 regiment arrived at Horunjan, on the Soviet - Manchurian border. In July of 1950 the regiment moved from Tunghua by train to Chian, Manchuria, detrained, crossed the Yagu river at Nanpojin, and moved by foot and pack animal at night beginning 16 October thru Kanggye, Changjin, to Toksilli until 2-29 October when it encountered the 26 ROK Regiment south of Choshin reservoir. In this engagement 2 prisoners from the 2nd battalion, 370 Regiment were taken on 26 October, 1 mile west of Sudong, and 16 prisoners from the mortar company were taken on 29 October at 1600 hours in the same general area. These prisoners were hungry and had not eaten for 3 days. Three of the 4 mortars of the company had been destroyed; the 4th mortar had been evacuated; and the ammunition platoon, of which all prisoners were members, was overrun. Prisoners state that the 370 Regiment CP was on the hill 3 miles west of Sudong, and that the balance of the regiment was in the same area."

Interrogation continues and the results will be forwarded as obtained.

While it is too early from the foregoing information to verify the presence of CCF units of any considerable size in the North Korean Armed Forces, the I ROK Corps estimates a force of 8000 CCF troops at Sudong, and another force of 2000 CCF troops at Chnugyande - Ni. Also, 1 prisoner states that 2 CCF divisions are moving from a Yalu river crossing at Manpojin with the object of capturing Hamhung beginning 1 November.

Our operations are continuing as planned and as already reported to GHQ in X 11780. Two RCTS, 1st Marine Division, are concentration from landing areas and moving on Hamhund, closing there by 2 November and the 3rd ROK Division is no in position 30 kilometers, north and northwest of Hamhung, to oppose any threat to that city. There are no other evidences of CCF forces opposing X Corps units.

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Our situation is excellent to develop any real threat that may materialize from indicating CCF movements. Probing attacks by ROK 3rd Division units are in progress to determine the real nature of opposing forces.

This brief report is furnished to indicate our information to date and the measures being taken here to determine the nature of possible new threats and steps to meet them. Prompt reports will follow.

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